

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 ACDA-19 AF-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01

TRSE-00 NIC-01 DRC-01 SCEM-02 SCI-06 EB-11 STR-08

EURE-00 /187 W

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P R 291214Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2465

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EC, NATO, XF, NL

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN VS. ATLANTIC UNITY; EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION

IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

1. IN COURSE OF MEETING NOV 28 WITH CHARGE AND ECON

COUNSELOR, MFA DIR GEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VAN LYNDEN

TOOK OCCASION TO ARTICULATE WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS OFFICIAL

DUTCH VIEW ON NEED TO AVOID CONFLICT BETWEEN EUROPEAN AND

ATLANTIC UNITY AND ON POSSIBLE EUROPEAN ROLE IN MID-EAST

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

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2. REFERRING TO RECENT EDITORIAL IN NCR HANDELSBLATT TO

EFFECT THAT ARAB OIL BOYCOTT AGAINST US AND HOLLAND WILL INEVITABLY FORCE DUTCH TO MAKE CHOICE BETWEEN EC PARTNERS AND US ALLY, VAN LYNDEN SAID GON DOES NOT SHARE THIS VIEW. US, HE SAID, HAS FOR 20 YEARS SUPPORTED CONCEPT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND HAS NOTHING TO GAIN FROM BREAKDOWN IN THAT UNITY OVER OIL QUESTION. WHILE EC INTEGRATION IS STILL LIMITED TO COMMON MARKET AND SOME POLITICAL CONSULTATION, IT REMAINS FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST ARAB DIVISIVE TACTICS. CHANCELLOR BRANDT AND FRENCH STATE SECRETARY DE LIPKOWSKY HAVE BOTH DECLARED IN RECENT DAYS THAT EC SHOULD STAND TOGETHER ON OIL ISSUE; AND ARABS ARE BEING TOLD BY EC AMBASSADORS THAT EUROPEAN UNITY IS AS IMPORTANT TO EUROPEANS AS ARAB UNITY TO ARABS. IT WOULD BE MISTAKE, SAID VAN LYNDEN, TO "WRITE OFF" EUROPEAN UNITY ON OIL QUESTION. WHILE LITTLE IS BEING SAID PUBLICLY THERE IS "SOLIDARITE EN FAIT" ON OIL SHARING WITHIN THE EC.

3. FOR DUTCH, ATLANTIC UNITY IS NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN EUROPEAN UNITY. DUTCH ARE PART OF BOTH, RELY ON BOTH, AND WANT TO SEE BOTH CONTINUE. IN PARTICULAR GON WILL DO WHAT IT CAN TO "KEEP EC OFF COLLISION COURSE WITH US" OVER QUESTION OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. DUTCH ARE AWARE THAT FRANCE, AND POSSIBLY UK, WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS. GON HAS ONCE ALREADY THWARTED PRETENSIONS OF FRENCH AND BRITISH TO SPEAK FOR EC AS A WHOLE ON MIDDLE EAST AND VAN LYNDEN IMPLIED IT WOULD DO SO AGAIN IF NEED BE. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HOWEVER, VAN LYNDEN WOULD NOT EXCLUDE SOME KIND OF EUROPEAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AT A LATER STAGE, POSSIBLY THROUGH THE PERMANENT EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE UNSC.

4. CHARGE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN RESPONSE. (A) US HAS FROM THE BEGINNING SUPPORTED EUROPEAN UNITY, AND THAT SUPPORT CONTINUES AS STRONG AS EVER. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT IN ALL OBJECTIVITY CONSIDER THE EC'S TACTICS IN FACE OF THE OIL BOYCOTT TO HAVE BEEN HELPFUL. AS OF NOW US SEES LITTLE EVIDENCE OF EUROPEAN UNITY ON CRUCIAL OIL QUESTION. NOVEMBER 6 DECLARATION WAS HARDLY A TRUE REFLECTION OF THE DUTCH POSITION AND DESPITE ITS PRO-ARAB SLANT FAILED TO

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BREAK THE DUTCH BOYCOTT. ALLEGED "SOLIDARITE EN FAIT" HAS DONE LITTLE TO DISPEL POPULAR IMPRESSION THAT OTHER EIGHT ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THEMSELVES THAN EC UNITY. (B) IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS HARD TO SEE WHAT ROLE EUROPE CAN PLAY AT LEAST IN THE FIRST STAGES OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. ONLY US AND USSR ARE IN POSITION TO APPLY NECESSARY PRESSURE ON ISRAELIS AND ARABS RESPECTIVELY. IF FRENCH AND BRITISH WANT TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION, LET THEM EXERT WHAT

INFLUENCE THEY CAN ON THEIR ARAB FRIENDS TO MAKE REASONABLE CONCESSIONS. (C) WE SEE NO REASON WHY THE DUTCH, IN CONTINUING TO FOLLOW A RESPONSIBLE POLICY, WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN SOLIDARITY WITH NATO AND THE US AND SUPPORT FOR THE EC. WE AGREE THAT ALL OF THESE TIES ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO DUTCH INTERESTS.

TANGUY

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